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Atlantic City, N.J.

April 23-28, 1950

THE CONFERENCE BULLETIN

of the

National Conference of Social Work**82 North High Street, Columbus 15, Ohio****President:** Martha M. Eliot, M.D., Geneva, Switzerland**Treasurer:** Arch Mandel, New York, N. Y.**Executive Secretary and Editor of the Bulletin:** Joe R. Hoffer**OCTOBER, 1949**

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The National Conference and the Forum Function

When the Study Committee was set up in April 1948, it was instructed in its charge from the Executive Committee "to study the need for and functions of a general organization like the National Conference at this time and . . . the values that are peculiar to the National Conference."

In the course of its deliberations the Committee came to the conclusion that conferences and conventions are characteristic of the American way of life, with social welfare no exception to the rule. The Study Committee also concluded that in spite of the multiplicity of national agency services, the social welfare community needs an autonomous organization to assume primary responsibility for the forum and discussion function in the field of social welfare. The National Conference of Social Work was considered to be this organization.

In the words of the Committee: "The major function of the National Conference should be to provide a dynamic educational forum program for the critical examination of the basic social welfare problems and issues—general open forum activities and related services for individuals and organizations in the social welfare field."

With its role thus clarified, the officers and staff of the Conference have been devoting considerable attention to determining ways to carry out this function most effectively. The forum is no longer thought of in its narrow sense as merely a series of speeches, or even a series of meetings, related or unrelated. There are, for example, the audio-visual aspects which can increase the forum's value immeasurably, and in this issue of the *Bulletin* we are publishing an article describing some of the activities of this type provided at Cleveland last June. This is a field in which we feel there is still much to be done, and we hope to see improvements in the years to come.

It is felt, too, that the National Conference can make a greater contribution if we improve our program planning for the Annual Meeting. The Study Committee recommended that the planning process be extended over a longer period, perhaps even three or four years, and we hope to take a step in this direction next year by holding the first program planning meeting in April at the time of the 1950 Annual Meeting.

The Study Committee recognized that not only would a longer period of time be desirable for the planning process but that there was a need to take cognizance of other forum activities on local, state, national and international levels and to relate them to the National Conference program. One way to meet this need is contained in the proposal to develop a cooperative relationship with the National Social Welfare Assembly by establishing a Joint Committee on Program Planning. This will be composed of the National Conference Program Committee and an equal number of persons appointed by the Assembly.

If the Annual Meeting is to be of value to the greatest possible number of persons, we must keep in mind the needs of those who cannot attend and reproduce the papers delivered in a convenient and usable form. The Study Committee recommendation of four volumes of Proceedings, based on the new organization plan of the Annual Meeting, is directed toward this end. It will be necessary for the Program Committee to consider these volumes during the planning process and visualize the meetings being arranged from two points of view—that of the person attending and that of the person reading the Proceedings. It may be some time before this recommendation for four volumes can be fully implemented, but a step has been taken this year with the publication of two volumes.

In the field of arranging and conducting meetings, the Conference has had a long experience which should contain much of value for others faced with similar problems. From time to time in the future we will publish articles on various phases of this experience.

In carrying out our responsibilities for the forum function in the social welfare field, the Conference, in accordance with the Study Committee's recommendations, is expanding its services to the state conferences of social work in an effort to help them discharge their forum responsibilities more effectively. On page 7 of this issue is an article outlining some of the steps being taken.

Although the Study Committee did not consider it practicable for the Conference to undertake a broad program of regional meetings at this time, continuous study is being given to whether this can be done in some limited fashion, thereby expanding in another direction the services of the Conference to those who are unable to attend the Annual Meeting.

All in all, the function assigned to the Conference by the Study Committee is a broad one, offering a real challenge to the members and staff of the organization as they seek the most effective means of carrying it out.

J. R. H.

The New Look—Audio-Visual Techniques in the Conference

The Forum as a device in social work becomes more valuable when the full range of audio-visual techniques are appropriately applied to round out and to enrich the experience of the participant. The National Conference for many years has had Consultation and Exhibit Booths. The emphasis has been on consultation, though as time went on the exhibits have become more and more expressive.

This year in Cleveland the Conference took a step in the direction of a greater development of the visual and auxiliary audio aspects of the forum function. This was not done with any thought of de-emphasizing consultation services or discussion but simply to round out the experience.

Audio-visual devices, other than those used in the meeting rooms, serve several of the same purposes served by speakers or papers and discussions. They inform, supply ideas, suggest solutions to problems, answer questions, help one to work more efficiently and economically, present new angles, show trends and developments, reveal the experience and activities of others, give us goals, standards and a host of other benefits. When exhibits are attended by competent consultants there is even possibility of an intimate exchange of experience in which the attendee can find expression much as or even more than he can in meetings.

The Conference invited more social welfare organizations than ever before to exhibit this year. It also invited a few commercial exhibitors adding thereby an entirely new service. Also new were: a Combined Book Exhibit; a Library Exhibit; an example of pictorial documentation in "Children in America"; a film theater with showings of outstanding films in social welfare and a special showing of the film, "The Quiet One." These new services are, we hope, only the beginning of a new development.

The Combined Book Exhibit displayed selected publications of a number of publishers. Attendees were able to browse through new and some of the best books and pamphlets in the field. The Conference sponsored the exhibit and furnished an attendant who helped visitors make out orders for publications which they wished to purchase and answered their questions as fully as possible. This exhibit was so popular that the Conference plans to expand it considerably next year to include more publishers and a wider range of publications.

The film showings were initiated by the Conference but were developed and conducted by the Cleveland Committee of the Conference and the Cleveland Public Library. The Library had a large collection of films in social welfare which were made available for showing. An attractive and most helpful program of showings was developed with moderators in charge at all times. Films were shown each morning and afternoon, Monday through Thursday. The interest and attendance more than justifies the continuation of this service.

The Cleveland Public Library presented an interesting exhibit showing how a library may serve the

welfare organizations of a community and displaying some of the basic books used in these services.

Miss Marion Palfi of New York had prepared an exhibit of pictures under a Rosenwald Foundation fellowship purporting to depict some of the problems of children in America, and some of the bright spots in enlightened community services.

Thirteen companies and commercial associations responded to invitations this year to set up and attend exhibits at the meetings. These included four publishers. Seven companies displayed, "a new kind of electronic recorder," arts and craft materials and aids to handicraft problems, mimeograph equipment and ideas, clothing for institutions and answers to clothing problems, and sound projectors. An association and a commercial health committee displayed booklets, posters, and other aids to nutrition and feeding services in all kinds of situations. Here as in the other exhibits the interest justifies the continuation and expansion of this service.

The regular exhibitors and the new social welfare organizations exhibiting this year gave more attention to making their exhibits more attractive and more meaningful. The standard of exhibits was higher.

The Conference urges its members to give more attention to exhibits as a direct aid to them and as a device for them to use in their work.

Area Representatives and The Area Pattern of Organization

Area Chairmen are now being designated as Area Representatives. Area Representatives may soon be establishing new ways of carrying on the membership participation program. Some have already reported changes.

The pattern of Area organization has been to establish an Area Committee led by an Area Chairman and sub-chairman on each of the four principal functions, program, nominations, membership and interpretation. These committees might enlist the help of many organizations in the Area but constituted an independent committee of the National Conference. Now it is being suggested that instead of having such independent Area Committees, the Area Representatives may enlist some existing organization in the Area to become a sponsoring organization to perform the various functions of membership participation under the leadership of the Area Representative.

Sponsoring organizations may be social work clubs, councils of social agencies, state conferences of social work, or state councils or associations or their district organizations, or any other appropriate organization in the Area. It is recognized that Areas are quite different, and Area Representatives are being asked to determine whether the Area Committee pattern should be continued or whether this new sponsoring organization pattern should be adopted. All of this is in the interest of greater participation of members. The National Conference urges all members to cooperate in building machinery for fuller participation of members in all phases of the Conference.

KNOW YOUR CONFERENCE

THE National Conference of Social Work has long prided itself on being a democratic organization. But we have not been able to escape entirely the defects which almost inevitably accompany a long ballot such as ours, and which lead members to feel that they are voting for names with no possibility of knowing all the persons listed on the ballot.

This year in order to combat this situation, several steps will be taken. In the first place, with the reor-

ganization of the Conference based on the Study Committee's report going into effect, the ballot will be considerably shorter. In addition, we hope to be able to circulate information about the candidates, so that "blind" voting will not be necessary.

In the meantime, we think members of the Conference would like to meet the officers who are now heading the organization, and we therefore present:



Martha M. Eliot, M.D.



Lester B. Granger



Helen R. Wright



Donald S. Howard



Marion Hathaway



Arch Mandel

Dr. Martha M. Eliot, President, is now serving her country in an international capacity as Assistant Director-General of the World Health Organization. Some of her feeling about that work was expressed in her letter to Conference members which appeared in the July issue of the *Bulletin*. Prior to accepting this post, she was for twenty-five years with the U. S. Children's Bureau, ending her service there in the position of Associate Chief.

Lester B. Granger, First Vice-President and Acting President while Dr. Eliot is out of the country, is Executive Director of the National Urban League. He has been on the regular staff of that organization since 1934 and had worked for the League on special assignments prior to that time.

Helen Russell Wright, Second Vice-President, is Dean of the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago, a position she has held since 1942. She joined the faculty of the School in 1928. Dr. Wright is a graduate of the Chicago School of Civics and Philanthropy.

Donald S. Howard, Third Vice-President, is Chairman of the Department of Social Welfare at the University of

California at Los Angeles. From 1936 to 1948 he was with the Russell Sage Foundation, his final position there being Director of the Department of Social Work Administration. During World War II he was on loan to the U. S. State Department and UNRRA and helped develop the UNRRA welfare program in Europe and China. Dr. Howard was President of the A.A.S.W. in 1947-49.

Marion Hathaway, Secretary, is Professor of Public Welfare at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, where she has been since 1941. Prior to that she held a number of positions including Executive Secretary of the American Association of Schools of Social Work. Miss Hathaway is editor of the social service series published by Houghton Mifflin, in which two volumes have just been released.

Arch Mandel, who has been Treasurer of the National Conference of Social Work since 1936, is the Director of Program of the Community Chests and Councils of America, Inc. Prior to joining the CCC he was Assistant Executive Director of the Greater New York Fund for four years and before that, Executive Secretary of the Dayon Bureau of Community Service.

Program Planning for Atlantic City

The Program Committee held a two-day meeting in New York early in October, which included a half-day program conference attended by representatives of the Associate Groups who will meet at the time of the Annual Meeting in Atlantic City in April.

The general theme of the meeting was discussed at some length. Although final decision on the exact wording will not be made until the December meeting of the Committee, it was agreed that the emphasis at Atlantic City should be on security as democracy's objective, but that the development of responsibility and opportunity for the individual, as well as for society, must also be kept in mind.

It was decided that there would be no sections other than the twelve which are now provided for in the regular structure of the Conference. Subjects which might be covered in additional sections would be brought into the general sessions and the regular section meetings.

Where this is a close community of interests between sections it was agreed that joint meetings would be held.

A New Book Service

THE Conference has made special arrangements to take orders for the Proceedings of the 76th Annual Meeting in Cleveland, the Selected Papers of the 76th Annual Meeting, and for a few other significant books through its national office in Columbus. The Conference invites all persons and agencies and organizations in the social welfare community to place their orders through its office. To members who pay dues of \$7.50 or more a substantial discount is offered.

It is hoped that this arrangement will be successful and will justify the expansion of services involved.

The Conference urges all members and particularly its agency and organization members to assist it by helping to promote the sale of these publications through the Conference.

The notice on the back cover of this Bulletin lists the publications being offered and the prices.

Developments in the International Conference of Social Work

There has been a good deal of activity in the International Conference of Social Work and the National Committees during recent months.

A highly successful joint meeting of the United States and Canadian Committees of the International Conference was held in Cleveland on June 15. Mr. Haynes, President, who was in Cleveland to speak at one of the general sessions of the National Conference, was present at the meeting and spoke briefly. There was discussion of the role of the national committees and of plans for regional meetings.

The Executive Committee of the Conference met in Geneva in September and took up, among other things, the questions of the organization of National Committees, finances and the establishment of financial quotas for the National Committees.

It was decided that a general meeting of the International Conference should be held in Paris in July 1950. The theme of this meeting will be "Social Work in 1950—Its Boundaries and Its Content." India was selected as the site of a meeting in 1952. It was agreed that the terms "regional" and "world" would not be used in referring to meetings of the International Conference and that a policy of rotating the meetings in different parts of the world would be followed.

The U. S. Committee met in New York early in October. A good deal of discussion was devoted to finances and the problems faced by the Committee in paying its quota toward the budget of the International Conference and also in repaying the National Conference of Social Work for the expenses it has incurred on behalf of the U. S. Committee during 1949. The Committee decided to undertake immediately an intensive drive for both memberships and contributions.

Tentative plans were made for an institute-type session in Atlantic City under the sponsorship of the U. S. Committee as well as for possible international meetings to be arranged jointly with the Canadian Committee. It is hoped also that the U. S. Committee will be able to sponsor other meetings during 1950 in other parts of the country.

HAVE YOU MADE YOUR ATLANTIC CITY HOTEL RESERVATION?

Forms for hotel registration for the 77th Annual Meeting at Atlantic City have been mailed to all Conference members. If you have not received yours, write to the Conference office for one.

PLAN NOW TO BE IN ATLANTIC CITY APRIL 23-28, 1950

Proceedings of the International Conference of Social Work

Copies of the proceedings of the 4th International Conference of Social Work held in Atlantic City in April 1948 are now available and can be ordered from the office of the International Conference, 82 North High St., Columbus 15, Ohio. The sale price is \$1.00 to members of the International Conference and \$2.00 to non-members. Since there is a limited supply of copies, those who wish to order should do so at once.

The Conference office also has a supply of the following volumes which are for sale at the prices noted:

Report of the Second International Conference of Social Work. Frankfurt-on-Main, July 10-14, 1932. One volume. Paper bound. Price \$3.00. (One edition only, in which papers are given in the language originally used—English, French or German.)

Report of the Third International Conference on Social Work. London, July 12-18, 1936. One volume. Paper bound. Price \$3.00. (One edition only, in which papers are given in the language originally used—English, French or German.)

Report of the Special International Conference on Urgent Social Problems in the War-Stricken Areas of Europe. Scheveningen—The Hague, September 15-19, 1947. Separate volumes in English and French. Paper bound. Price \$1.00.

Executive Committee

June

The Executive Committee held three meetings in Cleveland at the time of the Annual Meeting. As is customary, the final meeting was also attended by the newly elected members of the Committee.

Among the most important decisions reached was with regard to the publication of the Proceedings of the 76th Annual Meeting. The plan for two volumes which was decided on was described in some detail on the last page of the July **Bulletin**. Chicago was selected as the site of the 1952 meeting, and the Conference staff was instructed to make the necessary adjustments in the Annual Meeting structure to bring the cost within our estimated income.

The Committee recommended that the new Executive Committee take up as a matter of priority the problem of developing closer relations between the National Conference and the state conferences of social work. There was also a recommendation that the new Committee establish a committee to reconsider the name of the Conference as well as the appropriateness of the present Conference seal.

October

The first meeting of the 1949-50 Executive Committee was held in New York on October 8. Presiding was Lester Granger, Acting President of the Conference during Dr. Eliot's absence from the country.

(Cont. on Page 8)

Join the INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL WORK and plan now to attend GENERAL MEETING—PARIS, FRANCE— JULY 16-22, 1950

Theme: "Social Work in 1950—Its Boundaries and Its Content."

Arrangements are being made by the Conference office for transportation by chartered plane at approximately half-price and for hotel accommodations in Paris. This service will be available to members of the International Conference **only**. If you are interested, fill in the form below and return it to the Conference office with \$30 deposit—\$10 service charge, not refundable, and \$20 to be applied to cost of transportation.



APPLICATION

I wish to apply for membership in the International Conference of Social Work

AS AN INDIVIDUAL:

- ☐ Active \$5.00
☐ Sustaining \$10.00
☐ Contributing \$25.00 or more

AS AN ORGANIZATION:

- ☐ Active \$25.00
☐ Sustaining \$50.00
☐ Contributing \$100.00 or more

- ☐ Send me more information about membership
☐ Send me more information about Paris meeting

I am enclosing my remittance of \$_____.

Name_____

Position_____

Organization_____

Address_____

Please make check payable to:
United States Committee—International Conference of Social Work
82 North High Street Columbus 15, Ohio

The Association of State Conference Secretaries

Many Conference members may not know that there is a National Association of State Conference Secretaries and that the National Conference provides the secretariat for it as one of its services in the field of social work. The amount of service that has been provided has necessarily been limited by the amount of staff time that has been available, but we feel that even that amount has helped in the improvement of state conferences or associations over the country.

During the year there is an occasional Bulletin about techniques in the operation of conferences, program ideas, etc., and one issue which is a directory of state conferences.

Conferences send in bulk to the office for redistribution to other conferences, copies of their institute announcements, programs, and any other material that might be helpful.

This year a new service is being developed to aid conferences in planning their programs, particularly in the securing of speakers and institute leaders. This is being done in two ways. Approximately fifty national organizations have been contacted asking them if they would be willing to cooperate by furnishing information about staff that might be available for participation in state conferences because of their itineraries. This plan we hope will not only make available good speakers and institute leaders to state conferences but reduce the travel cost for speakers at state conferences. To date approximately twenty national organizations have indicated their willingness to cooperate to the utmost of their ability. Information has been supplied in various ways—definite itineraries of field staff, lists of field staff, with indications as to their particular abilities, and when it is not possible to furnish definite itineraries, information as to whom to write. This information has been distributed to all state conferences. The other method is that each state conference is being asked to send the office full information about speakers and institute leaders who have proved particularly helpful at the annual meeting. This information will also be made available to state conferences. In other words, a permanent source file of speakers and institute leaders is being built up.

Each year at least three meetings are held to which executive secretaries, presidents and program chairmen are invited for a discussion of problems and plans of state conferences—one at the time of the National Conference and the other two in the winter—one in the east and one in the middle west. Attempts have been made to hold meetings in other parts of the country. These have not proved too successful as it has been impossible to secure a large enough attendance to make the meeting of value.

At the meeting at the time of the National Conference in Cleveland, there were thirteen conferences represented: Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, West Virginia, Wis-

consin, and, making it an international meeting, Province of Ontario, Canada.

It was at this meeting that the decision was made to compile a file of good speakers. The possibility of uniform registration forms for the National Conference and state conferences and the possibility of joint memberships between the National and state conferences was discussed but it was felt that because of the differences in conferences, the suggestions would be impracticable to attempt for the whole country. However, the consensus was that if any state conference wished to experiment with either suggestion it should do so.

The state conferences were also concerned as to their place in the plans for the White House Conference. Some state conferences will be designated as an official White House group (only those who have active programs) but all conferences are urged to participate. Following the meeting the Association of State Conference Secretaries received a formal letter from the White House Conference urging the general participation of state conferences in the plans for the White House Conference. All state conferences will receive regular communications from the White House Conference Committee.

The next meetings of the Association will be held in New York in December and in Cincinnati in February immediately following the meeting of the Community Chests and Councils.

Time and Place—Future Annual Meetings

The National Conference has always believed in the principle of rotating its Annual Meeting to different sections of the country. It has never been able to implement this principle fully because of many reasons—finances, discriminatory policies in some cities, and inability to secure adequate accommodations and facilities.

This principle was re-affirmed recently by the Conference Study Committee and the Executive Committee. Changes have been recommended in the structure and organization of the Annual Meeting and in the financial obligations which should make the achievement of this goal possible in the near future. Our planning has been extended to a period of 3 to 4 years so that we can be more selective as to the time and location of our meetings. Unfortunately, it will be several years before we can produce results.

Our present projected tentative plan for the future is as follows:

- 1950, April, Atlantic City
- 1951, May, Atlantic City
- 1952, May, Chicago
- 1953, May, West Coast
- 1954, May, Middle West

There is every reason to believe, providing we secure the continuing support of our present members and friends, that the principle of rotation can be achieved and maintained for the future.

Papers on Planning Available

The National Social Welfare Assembly has issued in a single leaflet three of the papers delivered at the 76th annual meeting of the National Conference in Cleveland on the subject "Interrelationships of Local, State and National Planning." Single copies may be obtained from the Assembly office, 1790 Broadway, New York City, for 10c. Ten or more copies are 8c each, plus postage. The papers included are the following:

"The Concern of the Local Council" by Elmer J. Tropman, Executive Secretary of the Council of Social Agencies of Buffalo and Erie County, N. Y.

"The Concern of the State Planning Organization" by A. David Bouterse, Executive Director of the Public Charities Association of Pennsylvania.

"The Concern of the National Planning Organization" by Robert E. Bondy, Director of the National Social Welfare Assembly.

(Cont. from Page 6)

Considerable time was devoted to a discussion of the financial report for the first three quarters of 1949 and to the tentative budget estimates which were presented for 1950. The actual budget for 1950 will be voted on at the December meeting of the Committee.

Mr. William Haber of the University of Michigan was elected as a member of the Executive Committee to fill the vacancy caused by the fact that Marion Hathway, a Committee member, had been elected as Secretary of the Conference in the 1949 election.

Conference Calendar

The following meetings have been scheduled:

Dec. 5, 6 — State Conference Secretaries — New York

Dec. 8-9 — Program Committee — Chicago

Dec. 10 — Executive Committee — Chicago

Dec. 12 — U. S. Committee of the International Conference — Chicago

Feb. 4, 5, 1950 — State Conference Secretaries — Cincinnati

Apr. 23-28, 1950 — 77th Annual Meeting of the National Conference of Social Work — Atlantic City, N. J.

July 1950 — General meeting of the International Conference of Social Work — Paris

Nominations

This is a last call for additional nominations for the 1950 election. The slate of candidates proposed by the Nominations Committee was published in the July issue of the **Bulletin**, and the ballot will go to press soon.

Looking even farther into the future, this is also a request for suggestions for the use of the Nominations Committee which will meet in Atlantic City next April. All suggestions will receive careful consideration, and members are urged to include as much specific information as possible about the individuals they propose and their qualifications.

BOOKS OF VALUE

**SIGNIFICANT PUBLICATIONS
IN SOCIAL WELFARE
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THROUGH:**

A NEW BOOK SERVICE

**A DISCOUNT TO MEMBERS
WHO PAY DUES OF \$7.50 OR MORE,
INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS**

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL WORK

BOOK OFFERINGS:

	Regular Price	Price to Members (\$7.50 or over)
Proceedings 76th Annual Meeting, Cleveland (1949)		
Vol. I (General Session papers and summary of all other papers)—available in November or December	\$4.25	Free
Vol. II (Selected Papers from Section meetings)—available in November or December	\$4.75	\$3.75
1949 Social Work Year Book	\$4.50	\$4.00
Theory and Practice of Social Case Work by Gordon Hamilton	\$3.50	\$2.80
Forty-five in the Family by Eva Burmeister	\$3.25	\$2.60
Rural Welfare Services by Benson Y. Landis	\$3.00	\$2.40
The Family in a Democratic Society (Anniversary Papers of the Community Service Society of New York)	\$3.75	\$3.00
Social Work as Human Relations (Anniversary Papers of the N. Y. School of Social Work and the Community Service Society of New York)	\$3.75	\$3.00
Trends in Social Work by Frank J. Bruno	\$4.50	\$3.60

Place Your Orders Through—

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL WORK
82 North High Street, Columbus 15, Ohio

